Milles (T.)

K

An Appendix proper and pertinent, as beinge An Abstract, almost Verbatim (with some Necessarie Addition,) of the Customers APOLOGIE, written 18. yeares ago, to shew their Distresse in the Out-ports, aswell *through want of* Maintenance *and Meanes to beare out their Seruice*; as Countenance *and Credit in regard of Others.*

824.5.9
2

¶ *Now, see what hath bene said, and so hast to an End.*

The PRINCE (as aforesaide) is iustly offended, and the Merchant likewise hath laide downe his Griefes. These are the foure sorts of Officers that attend on Custome-causes: namely, CVSTOMERS, SERCHERS, COMPTROLLERS, & SVPERVISORS: amongst whom, if any complain, these last haue no Reason to looke to be pitied. For that, obtruding themselues into other mens work, and vndertaking a taske exceeding their skil; as Men in a maze they striu'd to go forward, and in dooing lesse then Nothing, woulde seeme to do all. Like ignorant austere Huishers that know no Rules to teach by, but beating the Schollers.

But by way of *Parenthesis*. Let this be worth the noting. How generally iust as consequently true, these ancient Rules of Art, and Assertions of Reason continue and stand, namely, *Quam frustra fit per plures quod fieri debet per pauciores.* And *Institutio ab initio invtilis, ex post-facto nunquam convalescit.* For, as these *Supervisors* doubting at the first the skill and good abearing of those they sought to vse, and were to put in trust: and seeing the weake foundation of *Comptrollers* before them to be but *Actum agere*, and easily out-fac't: by their new Accesse, the Seruice grew so violent, so intricate, and withall so out of Order; that the *Serchers*, who by office as they haue the best meanes to attend vpon Trafficke, so they should by Duty depend vppon the *Customers*, or concurre with them at least; leaue them to wilde Company and vnquiet Custom-hou'es, and swaruing with the ballast inquire out the neerest way to their own priuate profite.

In which Distresse, the Customers in displeasure with the PRINCE; in disgrace with the world, in the midst of a hungry, lawlesse, ignorant & wilful kind of Men, obtruded vpon them by ialousie and misconceite, that like defectiue *Heteroclytes* wrangle as it were with the very Rules of Grammer; pittying the Merchant in regard of his Traffick; silently bemoan themselues in this manner.

That the meanes to enable them to performe their Duties, aswell *Maintenance* as *Countenance*, are so with-held from them, that leauing the worlde and all preferments by it, to serue at the *Altar*, they are not thought woorthie to breath and liue thereby, Their Seruice being euery way like the Bricke-makers of Egypt, who wanting meanes to do their Taske, had ydle Taske-maysters, to ouer-see but what they wrought, whose Credites had no being, but in their Disgrace.

That the Law it selfe, so good and iust in generall, is made hurtfull to the PRINCE in their publique Functions, and iniurious to themselues in their priuate Callings. For that whereunto they becom precisely sworn at their Admissions, namely, the aduancement of *Customes* and consequently Trafficke; the *Customers* of all Men are forbidden by Statute, to wit, not to meddle or deale with Trafficke, and their Seruice being euery way no thankes to themselues, is a special Meanes of *Maintenance* and *Countenance* to others. SIC VOS NON VOBIS *fertis Aratra Boues, nidificatis Aues,*

That they notwithstanding, vnderly all Expences incident to Customs vnthankfully, which others neuer touch, and for only crying aime, reap thankes and Reward. For (omitting extraordinaries ere they come to their Places)

Ialousie *and* Suspition *out of superstitious zeale to* Customes *and* Trafficke, *haue ignorantly in all ages so incensed* PARLEMENTS *against* Customers, (*without distinguishing the* Out-ports *from* London) *that of Free-men borne, like Bondslaues, they are beaten to all workes, with their hands tide behinde them, and trusted with Nothing.*

their Bonds and Sureties for the Princes behoofe and ſubiection beſides, is an vnknowne burthen that the reſt little feele.

No Cuſtome-houſes, no publick Wharfes nor Storehouſes builded by the Prince in the Out-ports, *as there are at London.*

They alſo are to hire and finde out at each Port of their charge a conuenient Cuſtome-houſe (which the Prince ſhould prouide there as well as at *London*) that, alone beſides Seats, Tables, Shelues, and other neceſſarie thinges are hard to be compaſſed vnder 4. or 5. pound. So that for example, where fiue Ports are in charge, the Head-Cuſtomer ſtands chargeable yearly for fiue Cuſtome Houſes with 25. li.

At each of theſe Houſes a diſcreet and able Perſon, and of honeſt education, the *Cuſtomer* is to finde for his owne indemnity, that ſtands bounde for all. Whereas Any fit the reſt, bee they neuer ſo vntoward. And vnto ſuch, leſſe then 100. markes *per annum*, (to maintaine a Family,) cannot well bee giuen: which fiue all put together, makes 400. pounds a yeare, the head Cuſtomer being but doubled according to proportion.

The Farmers by ayming at theſe proportions, finde it by Experience to be moſt for theer profit.

At theſe fiue Cuſtome-houſes what is yearely ſpent in publicke, for Incke, Parchment, paper, and wax, the Cuſtomer ſupplies, which may amount ſome yeares to 8. or 10. li.

No Portage Money allowed Cuſtomers, *in the* Out-Ports, *as all Collectors in* Counties *haue.*

Beſides the hazard of turning vp to *London*, and putting in of moneyes (before Traffick became farmed) by Bils and otherwiſe, beeing allowed no Portage Money, as all Collectors els but Cuſtomers are, which the Reſt breake no ſleepe for.

Theirs are alſo all Expences caſuall, and needefull (beſides Trauayle for their paines) about ſending or riding from Port to Port, aſwell by Letters or Directions from the Councell, L. Threſaurer, or Exchequer; as by Proceſſes and Writs, how generally ſoeuer directed vnto all.

The Cuſtomers *Charge & Expence in paſſing Accompts.*

Laſtly, they put in their Bookes (before the generall Farme) twice a yeare duly to their double charge and paines, which the others did but once with little or none attendance, leauing ſtil the Cuſtomers ſo to abide, follow, and pay all Fees and duties, that the beſt halfe of their owne, if not two parts of three they leafte behinde them, before they came to ſee their *Quietus eſt*, beeing more encombred with the Entries and writings of the Others Bookes then of their owne, which they rather inſulted on, then car'd for to mend: colouring their Doings ſtill with the Princes onely Seruice, and vrging all Extremities, cride *The Moſt for the King.*

This being the *Countenance* and Seruice of *Cuſtomers* in the *Out-Portes* of this Kingdome, ſlightly runne ouer for breuities ſake, together with their charges now ſee but their *Maintenance*, which alone and by it ſelfe but indifferently waighd, may helpe to excuſe them, though the time for the preſent ſeeme hopeleſſe of releefe.

The Fees and Rewards to Cuſtomers, &c. in the Out-Ports allowed by the Prince.

The Fees and Rewards ioyntly to *Cuſtomers* and *Comptrollers* (the *Searchers* are allowed the moity of their Seiſures) before the generall Farme, amounted to the ſum of 1240. li. little vnder or ouer: whereof the *Comptrollers* had 340. & the remainder being 900. ſerud the *Cuſtomers* among them. This 900. diuided into three parts (as aboueſaide) two beeing ſpent in attending, clearing, and paſſing of Accompts, the remainder 300. is the *Cuſtomers* onely, to maintaine both them and theyrs, and recompence their Bondage, beeing leſſe then that *Comptrollers* haue with all freedome and eaſe. A Proportion odly euen, and hard to be beleeued without *Experience*, yet the ſame compared with the late ioynt *Superviſors*, made a farre ſtranger reckning. For where the Head Cuſtomers beeing in number ſome 19. diuided amongeſt them but 300 li. (*deductis deducendis* as aboue ſaid) and that vpon Acompt to at the years end: Theſe *Superviſors* in number being but 4. receiued by *Debentur* at euerie Quarters end, 425. li. which was 1700. li. a yeare for 16. yeares together, without accompt or reckning.

Theſe 4. ſuppoſing *Trafficke* to be ſome Eſſex cheeſe, as it ſeem'd by they Endeuours, ſurueighd Her in the *Out-Ports* by wilde Rats and Mice, and ſpints of the Aire, and whipt Her vp to *London* where now She liues confind: and left the *Cuſtomers* like Beares tyde to ſtakes, fit now for nothing but baiting & beating

beating, with the onely choise and freedome to ſtarue or liue by ſhifts. So that the *Cuſtomers* ſtill ſeruing at the *Altar*, and yet held vnworthy to breath and liue thereby, their fare growing ſlender, and their drinke but ſmall and ſcant, by Cockets, Entries, and ordinary Fees, (as all publicke Offices and officers haue) out of meere neceſsity and want of Employments, they dippe but their diſhes in their Neighbours Ciſternes (with good leaue & liking) to quench their thirſt, and at noone tide in their Gardens crop a few of their *Leekes* (with their owne free conſents) to keepe them from ſtaruing: and this now addes Oyle to the fire of their Furnace, their breaths are accuſed to infect with their ſent and poiſon the aire, though the reſt eate *Onions* and feed on *Garlicke*. So that howſoeuer in others it ſtand with right and reaſon; That, *Volentibus non fiunt iniuriæ*, and, *Quod Neceſsitas cogit, neceſsitas defendit*, yet in *Cuſtomers* of all men it becomes a great and a horrible Sin, Burglary at leaſt, complaind of now in PARLEMENTS, and that by *Merchants*, and thoſe of *London* too.

The only motiue of this Abſtract, intendid for an Anſwere the laſt Parlem^t. to the Marchants, Burgeſſes there for London. 1614.

As if Cuſtomers (forſooth) by *Companies* and *Societies*, did bandy themſelues, and liu'd by Decrees of their owne contriuings, neither fit nor to bee ſquared with GODS Lawes, KINGS Lawes, nor TREATISE of Entercourſe, had broken into STAPLES, prophan'd our Soueraignes MINTS, tranſported all his Load-ſtones (ordaind to draw in BVLLION) turn'd *Money* into a Merchandize, vndermin'd the State with *Vſurie*, and at Mid-night robd a CHVRCH, to keepe GOD from his *Duties*, and KINGS from their *Rights* as London Marchants do.

¶ Namely, as if They and none but they (I meane Cuſtomers of the Out-Ports, and none but Cuſtomers, let others cleare themſelues and London to) engroſsing all the *Wools* and *Woolſels* of the Kingdome (the wonders of the world, and ſometimes *Englands* glory) and ſtapling them beyond ſeas, had made them forraigne *Trophees* and *Enſignes* of our ſhame, without Exchange of BVLLION, like Merchants of the olde *Hanſe*, cald Marchants of the STAPLE.

The Golden Fleece the Order of Honor of the Dukes of Burgundie, *by* English *Wools in* Flanders. *ye Stapling of*

The Society *or Company of Merchants of the* Staple.

¶ Or, As if they and none but they, being put in truſt with the Creame as it were, and Credite of the Kingdome (*Cloth*) by ſtapling it beyond Seas at priuate Mart-Townes, had brought our *Clothyers* to diſtreſſe, our *Clothes* to be deſpiſed, and our *Clothing* vnto nothing, at leaſt nothing leſſe then *Bullion*, and turn'd our Cuſtomes into *Vſury* by *Hyſteron proteron* and Billes of *Intereſt* which Marchants terme *Exchange*, as the Marchant ADVENTVRERS were lately wont to do.

The Society *or* Company *of Marchant*-Aduenturers.

¶ Or, As if they (the Cuſtomers) and none but they, ſeeing Trafficke cloath'd in *Whites*, feed thouſands beyond ſeas, and ſtarue more then Millions, for want of worke at home, had vndertaken to draw her ſtarke naked, from the *Lime-hill* to the *Cole-pit*, and by a new *Deceptio viſus*, turne Cat but in the Pan, and dye her into *Motleyes*, and neuer thinke of *Bullion*. As the New March-ADVENTVRERS do beare in hand to do.

The newe Society *or Company of* March-Aduenturers.

¶ Or, Laſtly and *Inſtar Omnium*, As if they, and none but they, the Out-Port Cuſtomers, ſeeing Trafficke heartleſſe, pulſeleſſe, and almoſt out of breath, like a horſe already tired in a weary wilde-goaſe chaſe, offered to Ranke-riders to be ridden againe in poſt, without Diet, Drinke or Dreſsing, had vndertaken in the *Indies* to barter her for Drugs or pouldre her with Pepper, or with her owne Blood turne her wholly into Mummey, without regard of Bullion. As the *India* Marchants do.

The Society *or Company of* East-India Marchants.

Money in a kingdom is as blood in ye Body

Whereby, as in the Empire it fares with *Emperors*, by Popes and Popery, ſo with Chriſtian Kings and Kingdomes, by Conclaues and Societies. For, As Honor and Reuerence (the Father and Mother of MAIESTY) were brought to offer Sacrifice to REMPHAM and to RIMMON, and MAIESTIES ſelfe in *Emperors* compeld to do Homage to their owne Popes and Vaſſals, by *Extremity* and *Vſury*; SOVERAIGNTY being ſtript of all her beſt Subſiſtence and ſupplements of Bullion, Money became a Marchandiſe (ordaind for publique *Vſe*)

Publique Vtility (what ere became of Honesty) was turn'd to priuate gaine: So MAIESTY in KINGS becomes to bee eclipsed in their Kingdomes and Coines; their SOVERAIGNTIES supplanted, and *Bounties* vndermin'd, (without which in SOVERAIGNES no Subiects can be happy) at least wise in *Great-Britaine* where BOVNTY now commands, and all for want of Bullion. For, as our *Staples* being transplanted, are still with-held beyond Seas by secular *Popes* and *Papacy*; Our Out-ports at home beeing likewise brought vnder by *Conclaues* and *Societies*; Our Subsidies confounded of *Tonnage* and *Poundage*, aswel as our *Customes* by obstinate *Precisenes*, and our Traffick as bewitcht by *Auarice* and *Ambition*, confin'd within the Circle of the famous Port of London (for Greatnesse and wealth,) and there set to sale *au plus offrant*, made apt to bee coniured: so Our *Standarts* by Degrees falling out to bee vncertaine, both in *Number*, *Waights* and *Measure*, and our Monies made a Marchandise engrost in few mens hands: all things waxt deere, our KINGS became weake for want of Gold and Siluer, their Subiectes poore for want of current Moneyes or Employments at least, whilst Coin it selfe by *Vsury*, which Marchants tearme *Exchange*, eates out industry in Trades: and Marchants by *Monopolyes* conspire to strangle Traffick within themselues in *London*, & *London* by her Marchants made the Box of *Pandora* to send forth all the euils that now perplex the Land. And all for lacke of Bullion, which Merchants by their Contracts and Societies peruett, or else withstand by all the meanes they can.

O, that euer Marchants should sit so neere our Helme!

Yet, these are the Persons that defiling the waters which run down the *Thames* and slide along our Coasts, choake all our Ports with Oase, beray our cleanest Riuers, put TRAFFICK to her shiftes, and by daily aspersions finde fault with the Out ports, and accuse the Customers, to excuse themselues; as if none but they were sinners, or that London were a Sanctuary, and none but they were Saints.

But, *Hŷ Nigri sunt Omnes, Hostu* REX MAGNE *caueto.*

For, These are the Men and the Marchants to, that Trade-lesse themselues, and of no Occupations, by *Companies* and *Societies* residing still in *London*, engrosse all our Trades, and liue by buying and selling: and so by buying as to sell for priuate gaine, that making Money a Marchandise, they raise all their profits still from others Trades and paines, crying *Lucri bonus odor est ex quolibet qualibet*, and preferring euer *Vtile* before *Honestum*. *Qua, nulla permities maior vitæ hominum potest afferri.*

Yea, These are the persons, that to hold all men vnder, and themselues still aboue, deale wholy out of sight, and with publicke weapons maintaining contentions for priuat wrongs, breed nothing but complaints with vnkind iarres at home, and Enuy abroad, to the endlesse care and cumber of KINGS and COVNCELL-TABLES, and PARLEMENTS too. And all for lacke of *Staples*.

Enter-lopers in England, are as Hugenots *in France.*

For, These are the Marchants and speculatiue kinde of Men, that seuering themselues from the Body of our Commerce, call all men *Enter-lopers* that are not of their Conclaues or priuate Common wealths, and liue by their Decrees, though euery way as Catholicke and as Free-borne as they, and perhaps better Christians, though not so Iesuited. And wandering out of sight, bewitch all they meete with, and were it but possible, would seduce the wise, perswading all and euery where, that TRAFFICKE of her selfe is a parillous biting Beast, and that to bring her home againe vnto her owne Creekes and Ports, were to worry our sheepe in *Cotsal* Grounds, and sinke our ships on *Cheuiot* Hils that saile on *Barham*-Downes. And by a bare pretence of *Order* still, and orderly transporting the *Load-stones* of the Lande (without regard of BVLLION) as with a wodden Dagger, stab all they finde or heare of, that write or speake of Staples, for feare of our *Nauy*, and decay of our *shipping*.

As

As, if the cherishing of woods were the way to ruine Forrests, and hide our Timber-Trees. Or, that the raising of our Hiues againe were a consequence in reason to spil all our Hony, and smother all our Bees. Whereas, al Men now perceiue it, and Experience makes it plaine, though Customers holde their peace, that as our *Clothyers* with their *Clothes* (such as they are) hauing lost their home-bred STAPLES (& therewithall, their Credits) are forst to come like Pilgrimes, from *East*, *West*, *North*, and *South*, to one onely *Blacke-wel-Hall*: and there, if not against their Consciences, yet at least without Deuotion, pittifully complaining and bemoaning one another, to stoope to euery Saint, to crouch to euery Crosse, and run into Idolatry: so our *Creekes* In al our *Coasts*, creepe now to one Riuer. All our *Riuers* in our Countries run now to one Port. All our *Ports* about the Kingdome ioyue now to one *Towne*. Al our *Townes* in all our Shires, make nowe but one *City*. And all our *Cities* in each *Prouince*, *Metropolitane* and all, are but Suburbs as it were, to one vaste, vnweildy and disorderly *Babel*, that out-swelling all proportions, and in danger like to burst, contests within it selfe about the multitude of Buildings, which the world cals LONDON. And *London* by her Marchants contracted in her selfe, made a wildernesse of Sinne, and a Forrest of Shifts. Whereby TRAFFICK now confin'd, and euery way possest with *Rats* and *Mice*, and *spirits* of the ayre (of whom as of *Harpies* may truly be said.

Tristius haud istis monstrum nec sæuior vlla,
Pestis & ira Deum stygiis sese extulit vndis.

No Monsters like to these may happe, nor cursse from God befall,
Nor from the Pit of hell arise, to plague the Realme withal:)
Is so become tormented both by Water and by Land,
That how to helpe her now, God knowes, I do not vnderstand.

Except it be by PARLEMENT to restaure again our STAPLES, that K. *IAMES* may finde his Bullion, as K. Edw. sometimes did after 15. yeares experience, and so became most happy, til Marchants got the Helme againe, and Himselfe out-shot his marke, by transplanting that of *Kent* from *Cantorburie* to *Calays*.

For as *London* seemes distempered now, and distracted in it self by the multitude of people, and magnitude of Buildings; had it all our TEMPLES downe (as indeed it hath our *Staples*) that men might run on Pilgrimage to the shrined Saints of London; as our KING wantes his Customes, so GOD might seeke his Tythes, there or beyond seas, what ere became of Subsidies or Free-wil-Offerings either. And what ere betide of TRAFFICK, alias SHIPPING, for all her Marchants Orders, so seriously pretended; our *Iustice Commutatiue* might take her Enter-lopers, enquire for true *Religion*, learne the way to heauen, and take her leaue of LONDON, and ENGLAND too, for all our Faires and Markets, or priuate Parish Churches.

Trafficke and Shipping are relatiues. or rather Synonimas.

whose case is now the same with Holland and Zeland that Ed. 3 was wth Flanders. yt not worse.

On whose behalfe therefore, without selfe or side Respects, though my Faith be but fraile, my spirits wel-nie spent, and my Credite almost gone, yet doth my vow compell me stil to doe my best endeuour, and to wish and pray for Staples as heartily as I can, for the Consequences sake. But in the mean season, and as the case now stands, seeing all make loue to *Tributes* still, and catch our Functions from vs, both *High* and *Low*, *Rich* and *Poore*, *Noble* and *Ignoble*, because their Lessons spell *Siluer* and *Gold*, and yet our Names they shun. Let *Ialousie* bee cald for now, and let *Impudency* smell what *Ignorance* hath gained, and *Extremity* reformed in all the Schooles of *Customes*, by spelling well the Letters, but mistaking the purpose of a witty PREVY COVNCELLOR, that somtimes gaue aduice in this very case of Ours. Viz.

Al seeke to farme Trafficke, in one thing or other, but care not for Customers.

Sir Tho: Moores Epigram, *de Fætorib. abolend.*

Sectile ne tetros porrum tibi spiret odores,
Portinus a porro fac mihi cepe vores, &c.

In English thus:

1. CVSTOMERS.
2. COMPTROLLERS.

3. SVPERVISORS.

4. FARMERS.
5. *Searching, ſmelling, vndertaking, taking Waiters, at the Waters ſide.*

In Engliſh thus:

Leaſt eating 1 LEEKES (ſaith he) ſhould make thy breath to ſmell,
Take 2 ONIONS ſtrong, that ſent will ſoone allay:
And if thereby the ſauour ſeeme to excell,
3 GARLICKES be ſure will driue them both away.
But if the naſty ſmell of *Garlicke* ſtay,
What helpes vs then? 4 TOBACCO? No: but at a word I thinke,
There are that dare to 5 VNDERTAKE, and make a viler ſtinke.

These as the Obloquies of Cuſtomers and Cuſtome-houſes ſcandals, fiſh ſtill in pudled waters, and calling all things Cuſtomes, that indeede are nothing leſſe, prophane the Name of KINGS. These hunt and ferret Traſficke in euery Porte and Creeke, and ſo tumble and torment her as it were by Commiſſion, to keepe her ſtill from reſt: that Shee her ſelfe complaines now, aſwel within the Outports, as at euery gate of *London*.

Sicut Buſo Crati,
Maledicti ſot Dominati.

Whilſt the Out-port-Cuſtomers, being ſet to ſweepe the Houſes that others ſtill defile, and left to feede on Thiſtles, or to liue by the aire; out of hart, out of Friends, out of Credite and Requeſt, dare finde fault with nothing, but make Signes with their Pens, and write onely,

ADSIT REGVLA.

that is to ſay.
make their Functions and Seruice but only fit and poſſible for Subiects & Chriſtians

Tho: Milles.

Tho: Milles.

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